

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12030 161050Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 /057 W

----- 115924

R 160935Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7372

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD IN

SUBJECT: MOTION PICTURE PROBLEMS IN INDIA

1. TIMES OF INDIA CARRIED FIRST PAGE REPORT THAT INFORMATION MINISTRY HAD INITIATED MOVES TO IMPORT 25 FOREIGN FEATURE FILMS FOR IMMEDIATE SCREENING. FILMS WOULD ORIGINATE IN UK, FRANCE, GERMANY, JAPAN, SOVIET UNION, AS WELL AS US AND WOULD INCLUDE "GODFATHER" AND "SCARECROW."

2. CONGEN BOMBAY AND EMBASSY HAVE DISCUSSED REPORT WITH MPEAA OFFICIALS WHO STATE REPORT IS TOTALLY INACCURATE. THEY CLAIM THIS STRICTLY PERIODIC WINDOW DRESSING TACTIC BY SAID MINISTRY TO AVOID POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM BOTH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND FOREIGN FILM FANS. AS FAR AS MPEAA MEMBER COMPANIES ARE CONCERNED, NONE PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS WITH I&B MINISTRY ON CASH BASIS. KRS STILL HOPEFUL TO CONVINCE GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED THAT FILM IMPORTS ARE MUCH CHEAPER UNDER PREVIOUS FOUR-YEAR ARRANGEMENTS. BRITISH AND OTHER FOREIGN FILM COMPANIES, HAVING LIMITED FILM SHOWING IN INDIA, DO NOT OBJECT TO OUTRIGHT SALES.

3. MPEAA REPS WONDERED WHETHER THE NEW MPEAA PAKISTAN FILM ARRANGEMENT WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE PRESENT THINKING OF GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED. CONGEN OFFICER NOTED THAT GOI OFFICIALS

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CONCERNED WITH FILM IMPORTATION MAY NOT NECESSARILY RELISH

THOUGHT OF EMULATING PAKISTAN.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTACT STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF
INDIA OFFICIALS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS AND PLANS REGARDING THE
IMPORTATION OF MOTION PICTURES FROM THE USA. END COMMENT.
MOYNIHAN

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